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CITY OF LAFAYETTE

November 16, 2008

Lafayette City Council
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Council Members,

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors understands that the City Council will be receiving a report at a future meeting from the citizen volunteer Budget Review Committee. We understand the committee may suggest to the City Council that the $2.7 million currently held in the Parking Fund, should be released to fund the road repair projects proposed for the next couple of years. We also read in an article published in the Contra Costa Times on October 16, 2008 that suggested the money in the Parking Fund could be used as a loan to the RDA to finish the Library.

Our Board of Directors wants to make it very clear that we have not changed our position on how the money in the Parking Fund should be used. Since 1992, when the fund was first established, the Lafayette City Council promised the revenues from parking sources would be held separately and used for the purpose of creating additional downtown parking. Even in the recent issue of Vistas, staff explained that the money would be used to provide parking improvements in the downtown.

We understand the temptation to redirect these funds to solve some of the other funding problems. We have examined this issue many times and Lafayette Homeowner's Council and the Fix Our Roads committee both supported our position on using these funds to find parking solutions for our downtown. The surveys done during the Downtown Strategic Planning process also indicate that our residents feel we have a parking problem in the downtown.

We urge you to use the Parking Fund for solving parking issues. Now, more than ever, we will look to our downtown to produce as much sales tax revenue as it can. Use the fund to make our downtown more vibrant and more successful.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,

Larry Duson
President, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce